

St. Luke's Methodist Church

St. Michaels

public worship

St. Luke's Methodist Church (historically known as Sardis Chapel) is the most distinctive Italianate style building in St. Michaels. The decorative exterior brickwork, the round arched windows with arched brick hoods, and the heavily bracketed eaves are all features which comfortably classify this building as Italianate. The church building occupies a prominent site in the center of town, and its elaborate details contrast with the more restrained decoration of nearby Federal and vernacular dwellings as well as several commercial structures. St. Luke's is an interesting contrast with the granite Christ Episcopal Church that stands across the road.

Although the Methodist congregation is currently housed in this Victorian structure, the history of the St. Michaels church dates to the earliest period of town development when a lot was provided for the original building in St. Mary's Square. The second church, erected in 1839, remains on the square and is now used as a meeting hall for the local Masonic order.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-259

Magi No. 2102595508

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Sardis Chapel

and/or common St. Luke's Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number West side of Talbot Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town St. Michaels ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of St. Luke's Methodist Church

street & number Talbot Street telephone no.:

city, town St. Michaels state and zip code MD 21663

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio

city, town Easton state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1967 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

7. Description

Survey No. T-259

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

St. Luke's Methodist Church description

St. Luke's Methodist Church (also known as Sardis Chapel) is located on the west side of Talbot Street in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The large, two-story brick church faces east with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Dated by a cornerstone to 1871, the gable-front brick church has been built in several stages. After the initial construction of the brick church in 1871, a single-story annex was attached to the west gable end in 1894. In 1961 the cornerstone of the fellowship hall was laid. Finally in 1971 an entrance vestibule was attached to the front of the church in order to add an elevator.

The two-story rectangular brick church was erected with a combination of stretcher bond and common bond walls. The main facade was built with a pressed brick stretcher bond, while the side and rear walls were executed in eight-course common bond. A steeply pitched slate roof covers the main building in addition to the various additions. A frame bellfry rises from the top of the main building.

The east (main) elevation is largely covered by the 1971 two-story entrance vestibule. In an effort to blend the addition with the main building the front addition was designed with identical decorative corbelled brickwork under the eaves and the same bracketed roof. The round arched double door entrance is covered by a single-bay gabled portico that is also trimmed with eave brackets. The corners of the tower have buttresses that extend two stories, and the north buttress has the 1971 datestone set in its base. A decorative row of brick marks the second floor level above the entry roof. The second floor wall of the entry is marked by two colored glass lancet windows with decorative brick hoods. A colored glass round window trimmed with the same brick hood pierces the upper gable. The colored glass windows were evidently salvaged from the front wall of the church and reused in the addition. The exposed wall sections to each side of the entrance addition are treated in a similar manner with decorative brickwork and eave brackets that distinguish the upper wall surfaces. First and second floor windows are found to

each side of the entrance. Four over four sash windows topped by an arched header light the first floor, and colored glass windows with decorative arched hoods light the second floor. The bellfry rests on a square weatherboarded base that has a dentiled cornice. The bellfry section is marked by two louvered vents on each face, and the bellfry roof is distinguished by a bracketed cornice topped by shallow pediments. A tapered octagonal spire of squat proportions ends with a cross finial. The 1871 datestone marked "Sardis Chapel" is fixed in the northeast corner of the foundation.

The sides of the church are five bays across with four over four sash lighting the first floor and colored glass windows lighting the sanctuary. The first floor windows are topped by simple brick arches, while the sanctuary windows have more elaborate molded brick hoods. The eaves are decorated with brackets.

The west (rear) elevation of the main block is partially covered by the single-story T-plan brick addition dated 1894. The connecting leg of the T is three bays across and divided by plain brick pilasters. The east bay is filled with a door opening on the north side, while the other two bays are marked by four over four sash windows. The eave is decorated by widely spaced brackets. The gable ends of the T-plan wings are finished with decorative corbelled brick and eave brackets. A paired four over four sash window pierces the first floor and is topped by a shallow segmental arch. The upper gable is lighted by colored glass round window. Rising from the north and south wings of the T are brick chimneys. A brick shed addition is attached to the west side of the annex.

The church interior has been recently remodeled on the ground floor within the Sunday School room section. Located in the front vestibule is a time capsule of church history. Heavily turned newel posts distinguish each side of the twin stair which rises to the second floor sanctuary.

The sanctuary is divided into three general spaces; the altar and choir, the nave, and the balcony. The angled pews are fixed to an inclined floor which terminates its gradual slope at the balcony. The wooden ceiling is highlighted by diagonal board patterns, and the roof trusses extend down the side walls of the sanctuary

and end approximately half-way down the wall surface. The end of the truss is finished with a carved base. The raised pulpit and choir are set off from the rest of the sanctuary by a heavily turned baluster altar rail. In turn, the pulpit is divided from the choir by flat-panel partitions. Finally, the organ pipes are partially hidden by an intricately carved screen of Gothic arched panels. In the back of the sanctuary the tiered seating is framed by beaded board wainscoting that is finished in front with engaged mahogany newel posts. The rest of the room is also finished around the sides with beaded board wainscoting.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-259

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1871

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SIGNIFICANCE

The St. Luke's Methodist Church is the most distinctive Italianate style building in St. Michaels. The decorative exterior brickwork, the round arched windows with arched brick hoods and the heavily bracketed eaves are all features which comfortably classify this building as Italianate. The church occupies a prominent site in the center of the town, and its elaborate details contrast with the more restrained decoration of nearby Federal, and vernacular dwellings and commercial buildings. St. Luke's is an interesting contrast with the granite Christ Episcopal Church that stands almost directly across the road. The Methodist Church is an extremely important congregation in St. Michaels with its former church located on St. Mary's Square.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-259

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historian

organization Historic St. Michaels date 10/30/85

street & number telephone

city or town St. Michaels state MD 21663

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

ST. LUKES CHURCHPAGE TWO

Year: Vol: Page:
 From: Price:
 To:

Notes: PAGE 803: A lot on Talbot Street 80 x 176 ft. was purchased from John K Skinner and R. K. Murphy for \$750, and active work began.

The corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies on April 12, 1871.

The building is 46 x 76 feet and 60 feet from the ground to the comb of the roof. The front is of p..... brick with large folding circle head doors and beautifully stained glass windows with circle heads. The roof is steep, slate covered, and surmounted by a commanding steeple or belfry. The lower part was finished as expeditiously as possible so as to accomodate the congregation anxiously awaiting the transition from the old to the new. A vestibule of ten feet was taken off the front and an infant school and two class rooms form the new front of the building, leaving a large and attractive Sunday School and Lecture Room.

The following deeds apply to the chain of title prior to acquisition of the property by the church:

1840, 55/312 John B Jefferson to Edward Sears.

1840, 55/310 Thomas Blades to John B Jefferson.

1835, 55/276 Walter Sparks to Thomas Blades (recorded 1840).

1821 14 May Richard Harrington, trustee for Impey Dawson estate to Walter Sparks.
 (According to 55/312. Deed was not found in the land records!)

1801, 29/44 John Merchant to Impey Dawson.

1798, 27/450 Mary Thompson to Impey Dawson.

1791, 24/431 Nicholas Dawson and others to Impey Dawson.

1795, 26/233 Mary Thompson to John Merchant.

etc. to Joseph and Thomas Harrison. Part of "Chance" and "Janes Progress" ("Church Land").

The above is the history of 77/441. The chain for 78/104 should run to the Harrisons of "Canton Farm" and part of "Chance". Have not traced this one.

ST. LUKES CHURCH

Year: 1954 Vol: 315 Page: 555

From: Sardis Methodist Church of St. Michaels Price:

To: St. Luke's Methodist Church of St. Michaels

Notes: Members of the consolidated churches of Sardis Methodist and Southerland Methodist Church became incorporated on 23 June 1954.

Property involved is bounded on E Talbot Street; on N by Canton Alley; on W by Baltimore & Eastern RR Co; on S by Eastern Shore Public Service Co, Dawson Taylor, Freda H Lomax, H Bateman Lomax, Carroll Seymour, heirs of John Richard McQuay, James S Wales, Theodore Allen, Wm. Harper, Grace Burns, and Mary Camper Smith. The property is used as a church ground, parsonage, and Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Year: 1871 Vol: 78 Page: 104

From: Matthew Skinner, et. al. Price: \$500

To: Trustees of the M E Church in St. Michaels (Sardis Chapel)

Notes: Begins at stone on Talbot St. at SE corner of lot of Richard Harrington thence S with Talbot St. 40 ft. to lot of Richard K Murphy thence W with Murphy 176 ft. to lot of O P Sparks thence N with Sparks lot 48 ft. to the SE corner of Harrington's lot then E with Harrington 176 ft. to the beginning.

Same property was formerly sold by John Leeds Kerr, exec. of Samuel Harrison, dcd. and afterwards purchased by William Skinner.

Behrens

Year: 1871 Vol: 77 Page: 441

From: Richard K Murphy and wife & Arianna Sears Price: \$350

To: Trustees, M E Church in St. Michaels (Sardis Chapel)

Notes: On west side of Talbot St. Begin on Talbot St. at NE corner of a strip of ground occupied by O P Sparks, known as the "Thompson Property"; run with strip West 186 feet to SE corner of a lot of O P Sparks; run N with Spark's lot 40'6" to heirs of Wm. Skinner; run with Skinner E 176' to Talbot St.; with Talbot St 41 feet to beginning.

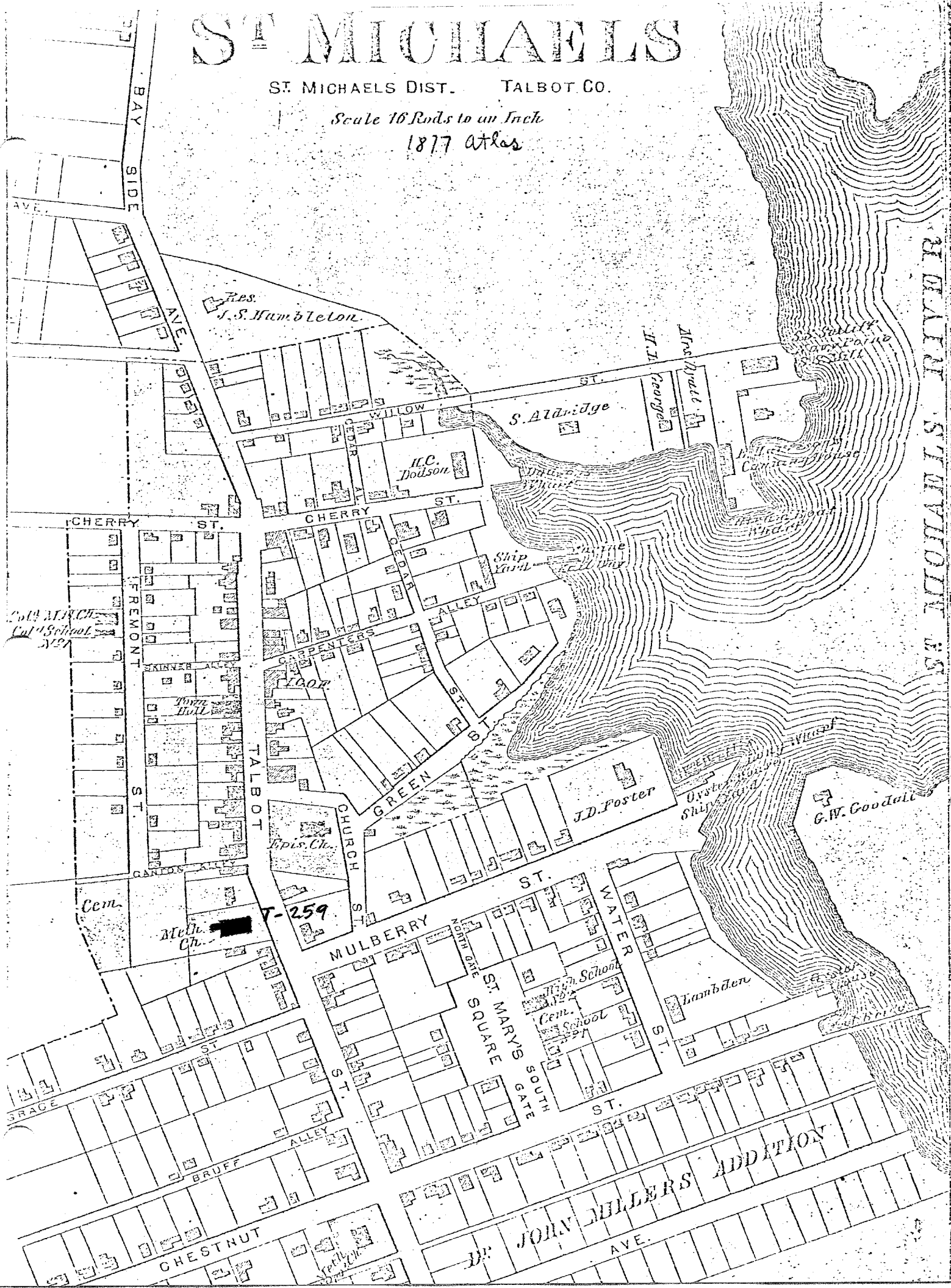
Conveyed to Richard K Murphy & wife by deed from Theresa Sears 1865, 72/138. Theresa Sears was given the land by her father Edward Sears who got it from John R Jefferson, 1840 55/312

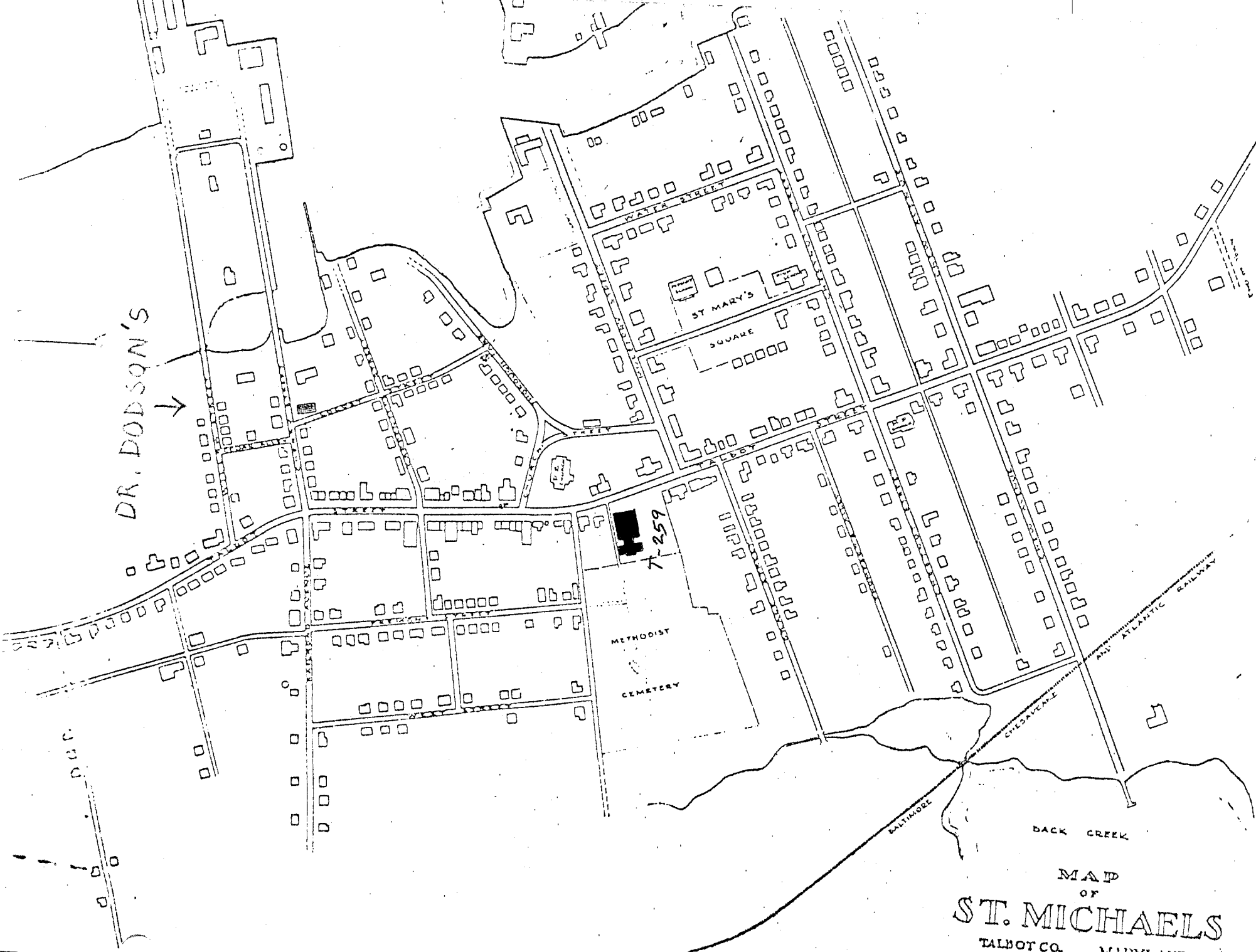
Behrens

ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.

Scale 16 Rods to an Inch
1877 Atlas





DR. DODSON'S
↓

METHODIST
CEMETERY

ST. MARY'S
SQUARE

7-259

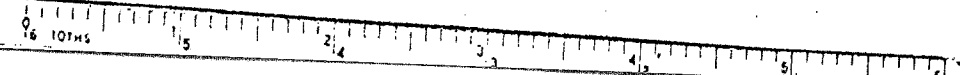
MAP
OF
ST. MICHAELS

TALBOT CO. MARYLAND

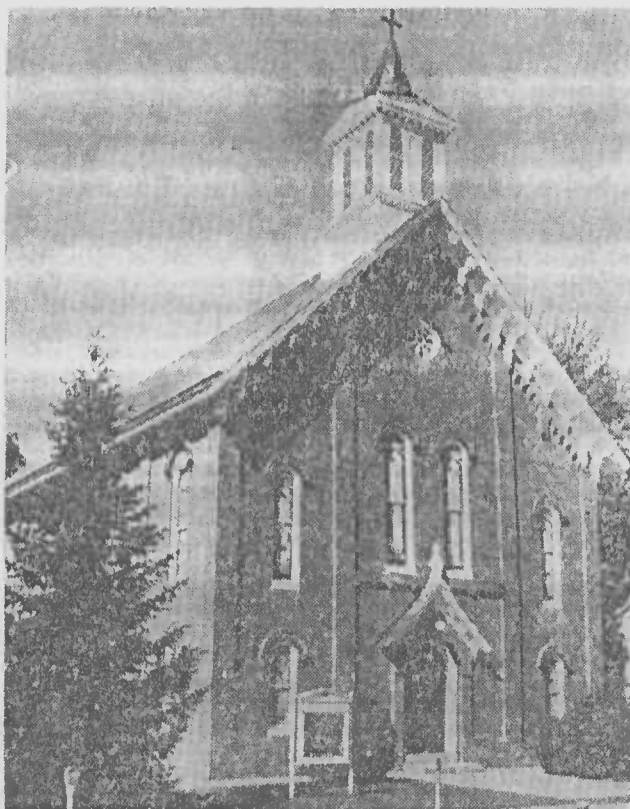
SCALE

JAN. 1, 1925.

THOMAS F. BRARD



Celebration of The 175th Anniversary of Methodism
in
St. Michaels, Maryland
October 27, 1957

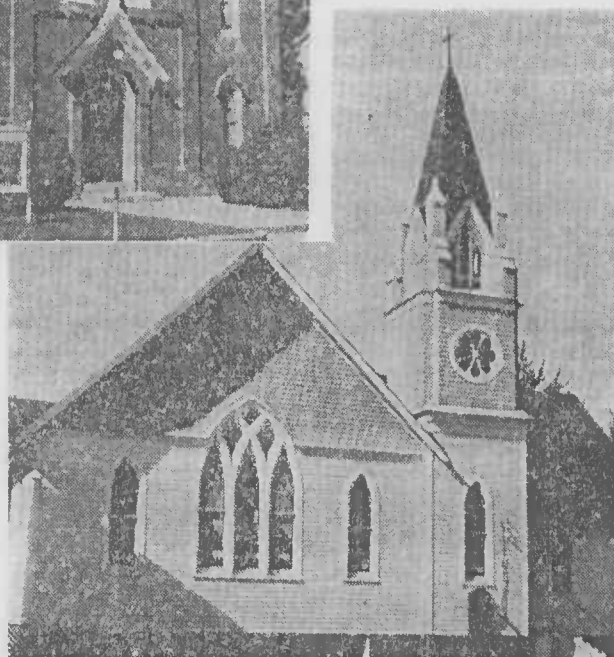


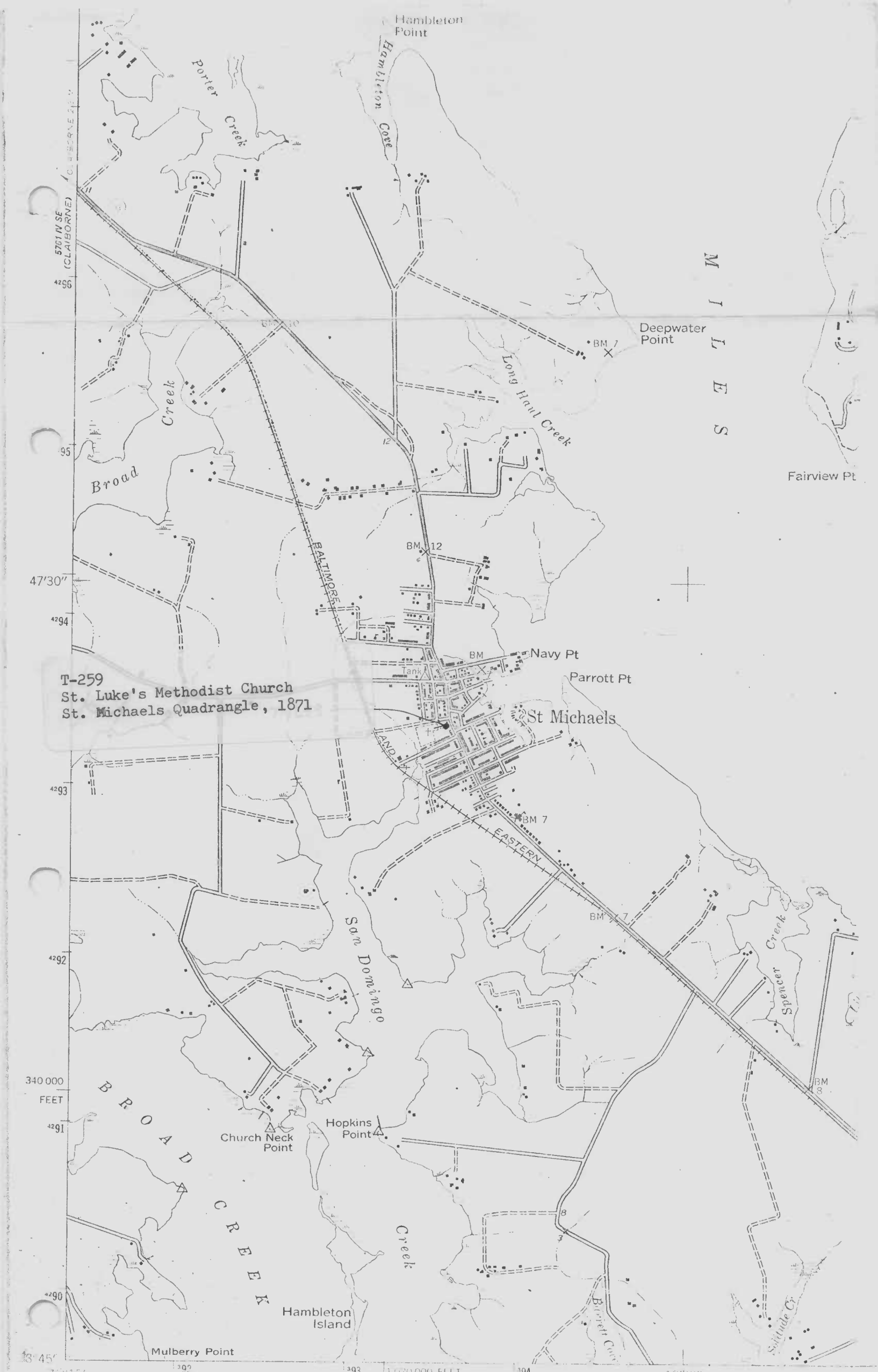
St. Luke's
Methodist Church

(formerly:
Sardis M. E. Church)

St. Luke's
Methodist
Parish House

(formerly:
Sontherland
M. P. Church)





T-259
St. Luke's Methodist Church
St. Michaels Quadrangle, 1871



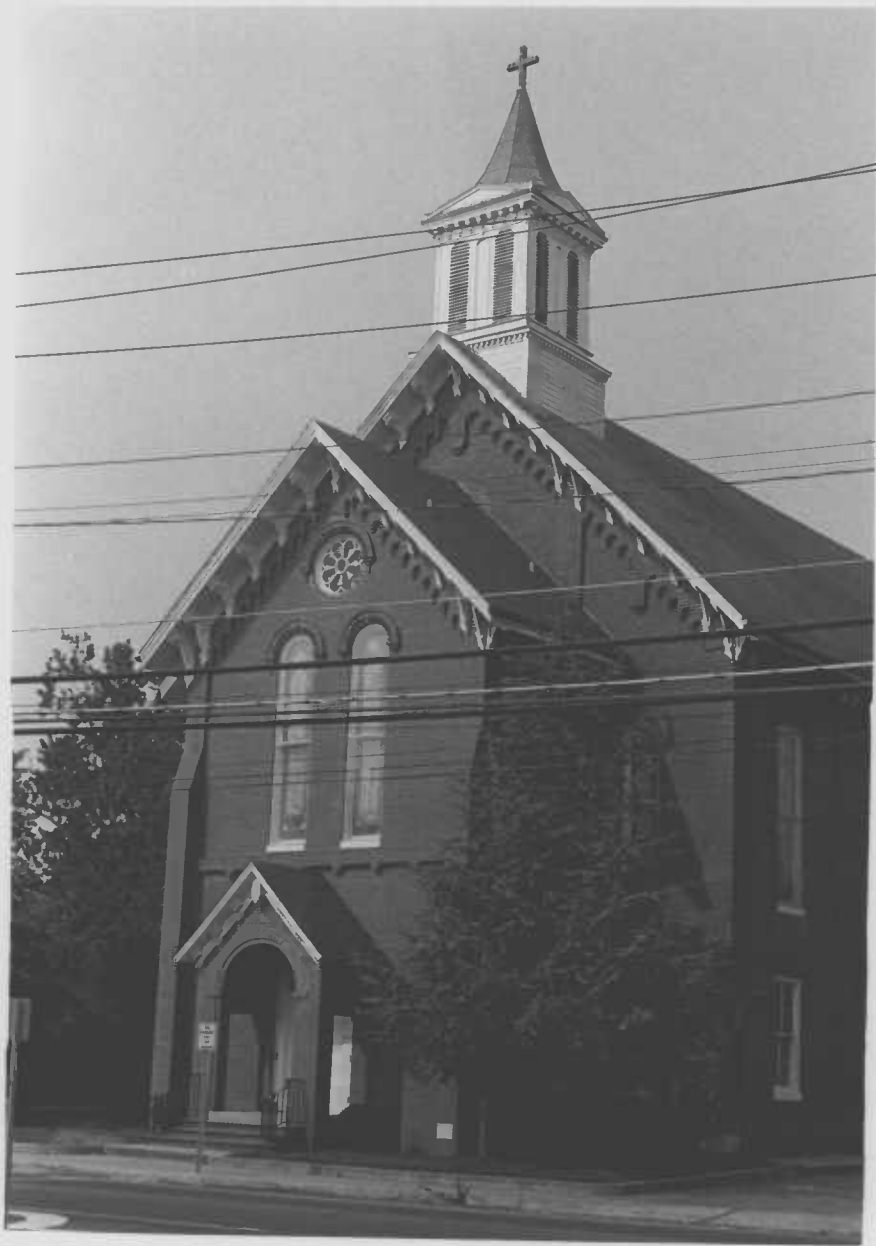
ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH T-259
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
North Elevation
6/85, Paul Touart, Photogrpaher
NEG/MD. Historical Trust



ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH T-259
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Datestone-NE Corner
6/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust



ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH T-259
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
East Elevation
6/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust



ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH T-259

Northeast Elevation

6/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH T-259
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Sanctuary
6/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust



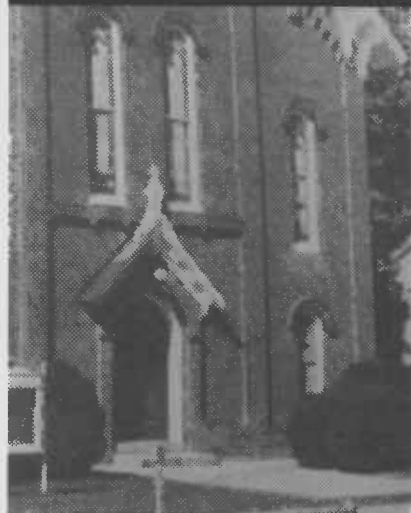
ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH T-259
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Altar
6/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust



ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH T-259
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Newel Post
6/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust



ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH T-259
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Wall Brace
6/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust



T-259



10 x 1.82

52%

259

T-259

T-259